SALISBURY UNIVERSITY STATE

1998

BASEBALL

SEA GULLS

SSU at a glance

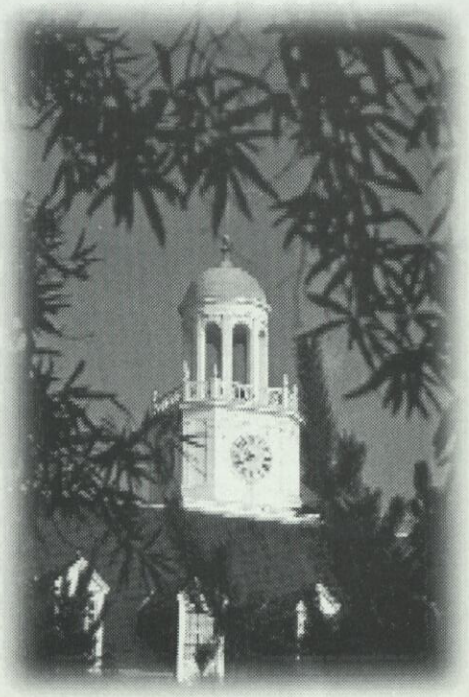
The resources of a University ...
6,000 students from 36 states and 50 foreign countries
29 undergraduate and 7 graduate programs
200 full-time tenure-track faculty, 85 percent with terminal degrees, including National Endowment for the Humanities scholars and Fulbright professors.
NCAA Division III Athletics, 9 men's, 10 women's intercollegiate teams; 22 intramural sports

... with small-school opportunities.
Approachable faculty (17:1 student/faculty ratio)
Honors program with dedicated faculty at the Bellavance Honors Center. Ten residence complexes including traditional, co-ed, suite and apartment styles.

The security of state support ...
1997-98 tuition, room, board and fees: $8,982 per year for Maryland residents; $12,734 per year out-of-state.
A library with over 800,000 volumes, periodicals, microforms and databases including word processing and computer labs. Access to collections throughout the country.

... with the benefits of private funding.
Altogether, SSU awards nearly $1 million in academic scholarships each year. More than $22 million in private endowments supports some of those scholarships and provides for some of the finest educational programs.

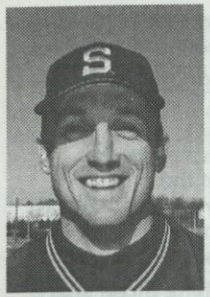
In an ideal–and idyllic–location:
Salisbury, MD, is 30 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and Ocean City, MD, and 20 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay; 2 hours from Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Wilmington, DE. The campus is 2 1/2 hours from Norfolk, VA, and Philadelphia, PA, and 4 1/2 hours from New York.



Come see us–in person, or in cyberspace. We'd love to see your smiling face, but if you can't get here, check out our Web site.
We're at **http://www.ssu.edu.**

SSU's campus is in an attractive, residential neighborhood of stately homes on sculpted lawns, less than one-half mile from the banks of the Wicomico River. The campus includes 34 buildings on 125 landscaped acres. Students walk from one end of campus to the other in about 5 minutes.

Head Coach Robb Disbennett



After four years as the team's top assistant, **Robb Disbennett** was named head coach of the Salisbury State University baseball program last May. Disbennett replaces Deane Deshon, who retired following the 1997 season after 34 years as head coach of the Sea Gulls.

Disbennett, a 1986 Salisbury State graduate, served as Deshon's top assistant since 1994. During that time, he was been involved in all phases of the program on a day-to-day basis. He served as the team's primary recruiter in addition to coordinating the daily practice routine and overseeing the team's weight training and conditioning programs. The Gulls have recorded three straight 20-win seasons during Disbennett's tenure.

"Robb was the natural choice to fill the void created by Coach Deshon's retirement," said Athletic Director Michael Vienna. "He worked closely with Deane during the past four years in virtually every aspect of the program and understands the responsibilities and demands of the position. That understanding, coupled with Robb's tremendous work ethic, will help him provide the same type of quality leadership that the program received under Coach Deshon."

Disbennett, a native of District Heights, MD, was a standout prep ballplayer at Bishop McNamara High School and later at Prince George's (MD) Community College. He was recruited by Deshon after earning all-conference honors as a shortstop at PGCC, but he never played baseball for the Sea Gulls. Instead, Disbennett became an all-American at quarterback for the Salisbury State football team, twice leading the Gulls into the NCAA playoffs. He was inducted into the SSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996.

Following graduation, Disbennett spent four years as a coach at Central Connecticut State prior to returning to Salisbury State in 1991. In addition to his baseball duties, Disbennett serves as an assistant football coach and instructor in the Department of Physical Education.

He and his wife, Marcy, reside in Hebron, MD.

1998 Assistant Coaches

Bill Ewe... Joins the staff as an assistant this season after completing a four-year career in 1997...A three-year team captain who earned all-conference honors in 1995...Will serve as strength and conditioning coach and first base coach and work with the catchers...Also coordinates the out-of-state recruiting...Works full-time as a third grade teacher at North Salisbury Elementary School...Lives in Ocean Pines with his wife, Lauren.

Ron Siers...A first-year assistant who will be the team's third base coach...Will also handle the defensive alignments and adjustments during the game...Coordinates in-state recruiting...Former head coach at Mardela (MD) High School, where he continues to serve as a history teacher...Lives in Fruitland with his wife, Stacie, and two children, Rex and Zoe.

Todd Lampman... The former head coach at Stephen Decatur High School, in Berlin, MD, he begins his first year with the Sea Gulls...Played collegiately at Hampden-Sydney (VA) College...Will serve as the team's hitting and outfield coach this season...Works full-time for the Worcester County Developmental Center...A native of Lynchburg, VA, he resides in Berlin with his wife, Mary Beth, and son, Tyler.

1997-98 Season Outlook

The Salisbury State University baseball team presents a mixture of new and old as it prepares for the 1998 season. The "new" encompasses first-year Head Coach **Robb Disbennett**, who takes the reigns after serving as the program's top assistant for the past four years. Disbennett replaces long-time Sea Gull mentor Deane Deshon, who retired last spring after 34 seasons at the helm.

Fortunately for Disbennett, there are plenty of "old" faces back this spring as he inherits a veteran ballclub that has won 20 or more games in each of the past three seasons. The Sea Gulls return 12 lettermen and six of eight everyday players from last year's 23-15 squad.

"I'm excited about this season and we have some high goals," said Disbennett. "With the squad we have and the seniors we return, we're capable of reaching those goals."

A closer look at the 1998 Sea Gulls, by position:

Pitching

The top three returning starters from last year combined for a 10-2 record, with all three registering ERAs of 3.35 or lower. Junior **Chris Barulic** enjoyed a breakthrough season, emerging as one of the top righthanders in the Capital Athletic Conference and earning the team's MVP award. Barulic posted a 5-1 record and finished with a team-leading 42 strikeouts in 48 innings.

Senior **Jeff Wilson** (3-1, 3.16 ERA) and sophomore **Jason Baynard** (2-0, 1.09) will join Barulic to form the nucleus of the starting rotation. Wilson, a hard thrower with good location, had the second best strikeout-to-walk ratio on the squad in 1997. Baynard finished with a team's lowest earned run average.

Behind these three, the Gulls will be counting on several transfers and freshmen to provide further mound help. Two transfers, junior **Mike Ruck** and sophomore **Cory Huston**, may provide immediate help.

The freshman hurlers include **Doug Batten**, **Michael Bostian**, **Jon Riker** and **Dan Warner**.

"I feel good about our three returning pitchers," said Disbennett. "The newcomers have lots of talent and potential, but they're untested. We'll see how they perform in game situations. We need the freshmen to step up and fill the holes."

Infield

Four of five starters return around the infield, led by all-South Region and all-CAC third baseman **Dave Westervelt**. A three-year starter, the senior led the club with eight home runs and 36 RBI last year while hitting .340. He was also the team leader in hits (50) and runs scored (36) while placing second in doubles (10).

Seniors **Jeff Purgason** and **Chris Lloyd** are steady and experienced players in the middle infield. Second baseman Purgason was limited to just 20 games last year due to injury, but hopes to reclaim the form he displayed in 1996, when he hit .309. Lloyd established himself as the everyday shortstop last year, providing good range in addition to a .321 batting average. He is the projected starter again in 1998.

Sophomore **Tim Hilyard** (.260) will likely share some of the duties at shortstop. Sophomore transfer **Danny Payne** will serve as the primary backup at second base.

Junior **Brian Burden** (.231) has shared the starting job at first base in his first two seasons, and will have a chance to fill the role full time this year. Freshman **Bobby Hamel** is the top backup at both corner infield positions.

Senior **Chris Vaccaro** split duty behind the plate last season and will be the everyday catcher this spring. Vaccaro led the team with a .378 batting average and .648 slugging percentage in 1997 while seeing action in 22 games.

Senior **Cable Miller**, a first team all-CAC selectee at DH, returns to that role again in 1998. Miller hit .328 last spring with a team-high 12 doubles. He may also spell Vaccaro on occasion behind the plate. Sophomore backstop **Andy Booker** is also available.

"I feel good about this group heading into the season," said Disbennett. "It's a veteran infield and a good defensive infield. We have good depth at all the positions, with Westervelt probably among the best players in the conference. They should do a great job."

Outfield

The Gulls lost two of three starters from last year, including first team all-CAC performer Matt Criscimagna, but have a number of players ready to fill the void. Sophomore **Dane Schriver** (.247) is the top returner, and will patrol centerfield. The speedy Schriver will also serve as the team's leadoff hitter.

Junior **Matt Morraye**, who missed virtually the entire '97 season due to injury, returns as the projected starter in left field.

Senior **Tom Rey** (.305) moves from the infield to the outfield and will likely occupy right field. Two newcomers, sophomore **John Harrison** and freshman **Jay Bilbrough**, will also see action.

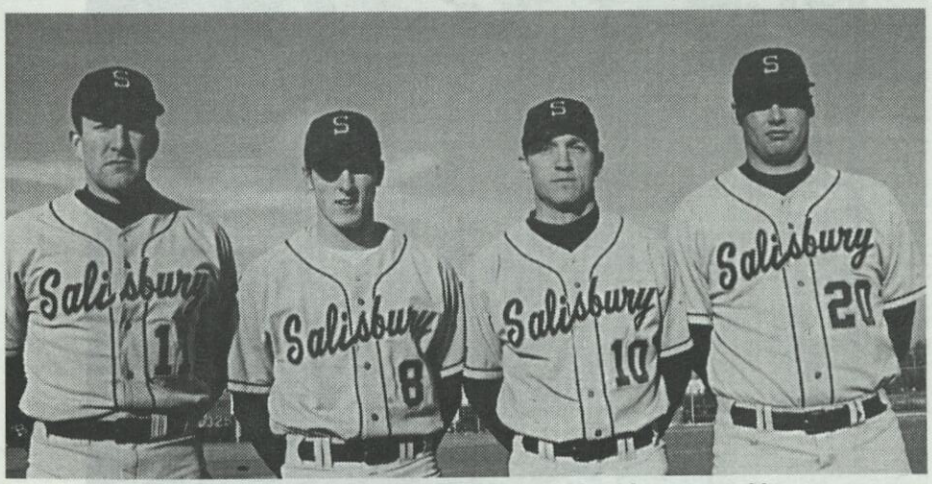
"We have good athletes in the outfield," said Disbennett. "I'm confident that they will all field well and make some plays for us. If we can also get some offensive production from them, we'll be in real good shape."

Overview

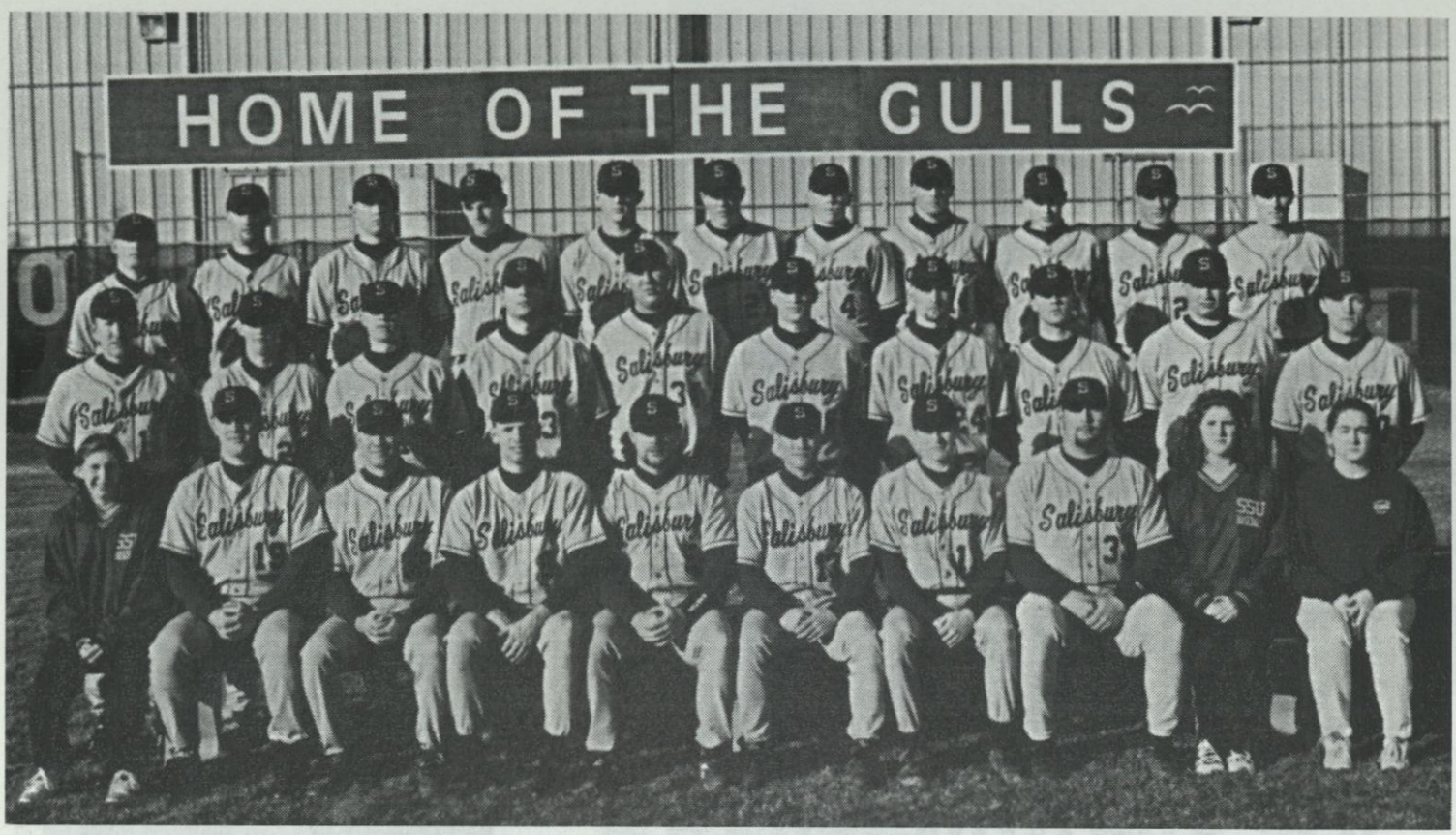
"I'm extremely optimistic about the season," said Disbennett. "We've got a great staff that's very enthusiastic, and I think that energy has trickled down to the players. Our seniors also have some big expectations, and we'll have great leadership from them this year.

"Our biggest question mark heading into the season is with the pitching. I believe we have talent on the staff, it's just untested at this point.

"The attitude of the team, as a whole, is outstanding. These guys really care about each other, and I think that will show itself in game situations."



Coaching staff (left to right) Ron Siers, Bill Ewe, Robb Disbennett, Todd Lampman



1998 Sea Gull Roster

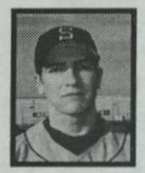
No. *	Name	Pos	Year	Hgt	Wgt	B	T	Hometown	High School
18/7	Robert Hamel	IF	Fr	5-11	185	R	R	Holbrook, NY	Sachem
19/16	Matt Morraye	OF	Jr	6-0	165	R	R	Glenwood, MD	Glenelg
21/21	Brian Burden	1B	Jr	5-11	220	R	R	Gambrills, MD	Arundel
22/22	John Harrison	OF	So	6-0	175	R	R	Beltsville, MD	High Point
23/2	Daniel Payne	2B	So	5-7	145	R	R	Marlton, NJ	Cherokee
24/13	Tom Rey	OF	Sr	5-8	170	R	R	College Park, MD	Parkdale
25/25	Chris Barulic	P	Jr	5-9	150	R	R	Seaside Park, NJ	Central Regional
26/15	Michael Ruck	P	Jr	6-0	180	R	R	Silver Spring, MD	Sherwood
27/27	Dane Shriver	OF	So	6-1	180	R	R	Easton, MD	Easton
28/28	Jason Baynard	P	So	6-2	185	R	R	Trappe, MD	Easton
32/32	Chris Lloyd	SS	Sr	6-2	195	R	R	Delmar, MD	Delmar
33/33	Chris Vaccaro	C	Sr	6-2	265	R	R	Stamford, CT	Stamford
34/3	Tim Hilyard	SS	So	5-10	150	R	R	Bel Air, MD	C. Milton Wright
35/5	Cable Miller	DH	Sr	5-11	225	L	R	Joppa, MD	Joppatowne
36/35	Daniel Warner	P	Fr	6-1	175	R	R	Baltimore, MD	Mt. St. Joe
37/14	Cory Huston	P	Fr	6-0	175	R	R	Pitman, NJ	Pitman
39/9	Jeff Wilson	P	Sr	6-2	190	R	R	Linwood, NJ	Mainland
40/4	Michael Bostian	P	Fr	5-11	180	L	L	Frederick,MD	Frederick
41/1	Jonathon Riker	P	Jr	6-0	180	L	L	Greenlawn, NY	Harborfields
42/18	Andy Booker	C	So	5-10	190	R	R	Woodstock, MD	Arlington Baptist
43/11	Jeff Purgason	2B	Sr	6-0	160	R	R	Preston, MD	Colonel Richardson
44/30	Jay Bilbrough	OF	Fr	5-10	175	R	R	Denton, MD	North Caroline
45/34	Doug Batten	P	Fr	6-5	250	R	R	Wilmington, DE	Salesianum
46/19	Dave Westervelt	3B	Sr	6-4	240	R	R	Bel Air, MD	John Carroll

29/10 Head Coach Robb Disbennett (1st season)
17/17 Assistant Coach Ron Siers 38/8 Assistant Coach Bill Ewe 20/20 Assistant Coach Todd Lampman

* First number listed is for maroon and white uniform tops; second number is for gold and grey tops.

1998 Seniors To Watch

CHRIS LLOYD
Shortstop
Delmar, MD
Projected as the team's starting shortstop once again in 1998...Played in 33 of 38 games last year after joining the Gulls as a transfer from Anne Arundel JC...Finished with a .321 batting average, fourth highest on the team, with 37 hits, 17 runs, and 15 RBI...A solid leader in the middle of the infield...A contact hitter who is also among the team's hardest workers.



JEFF PURGASON
Second Base
Preston, MD
Served as one of the team captains in 1997... Played in just 20 games due to a hand injury, finishing with a .173 batting average...Returned in time to finish the season...Hopes to recapture the form he displayed in 1996, when he hit .309...A very competitive athlete who always finds a way to get the job done...Excellent work ethic...Will start the season at second base.

TOM REY
Outfield
College Park, MD
Moves to the outfield this season after serving primarily as a backup infielder in 1997...Has a chance to begin the season in the starting lineup... Hit .305 in 36 at-bats last year, with five doubles.. Should make a bigger contribution this spring... Will probably play mostly in right field...Joined the Sea Gulls as a transfer from Prince George's (MD) JC last year.

JEFF WILSON
Pitcher
Linwood, NJ
Coming off a 3-1 campaign as a junior last season, in which he saw action as both a starter and a reliever...Will likely serve primarily in a starting role this season...Finished with one of the best ERAs on the squad in 1997 at 3.16...A hard thrower who has good location...Tallied 24 strikeouts and just 12 walks in 37 innings of work last year...Has also worked as the team's closer during his career...Posted an impressive 2.88 ERA as a sophomore in 1996.

CABLE MILLER
Designated Hitter
Joppa, MD
First-team all-Capital Athletic Conference selectee as designated hitter in 1997...Finished the season with a .328 average, third best on the team...Also led the club with 12 doubles while finishing second on the team with 42 hits and 34 runs scored...Has a very smooth, left-handed stroke and good discipline at the plate...Finished with a .313 batting average in 1996 after compiling a .376 mark in 1995...A career .340 hitter with 118 base hits in 347 at-bats...Should be one of the team's key offensive producers again in 1998.

DAVID WESTERVELT
Third Base
Bel Air, MD
A first team all-conference and honorable mention all-South Region player in 1997...Posted a .340 batting average last year while leading the team with eight home runs, 36 RBI, 50 hits and 36 runs...Set an SSU single-game record with three home runs and 15 total bases in a 14-2 win at Randolph-Macon last year...A three-year starter who has played in 110 of 111 games during his career... Finished with a .345 batting average in 1995 and a .325 mark in 1996...Received the Delmarva Shorebirds' Collegiate Scholar-Athlete Award in 1998...Also serves as president of SSU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

CHRIS VACCARO
Catcher
Stamford, CT
Made a strong impact last year while splitting the catching duties...Finished as the team's top hitter with a .378 average and a team-best .648 slugging percentage...Tallied five doubles, five home runs and 19 RBI in just 74 at-bats...An excellent power hitter who also drew 13 walks last season...Will handle the bulk of the duties behind-the-plate this spring.

The Recordbook

Season Records—Hitting

At-Bats	166	Joe Frisbee	1977
Runs	54	Jay Wilson	1985
Hits	68	Jesse Plummer	1977
Average	.475	Bruce Matthews	1988
Total Bases	97	Robin Knight	1976
Doubles	19	Bryan Perry	1978
Triples	6	Jesse Plummer	1977
Home Runs	10	Robin Knight	1976
RBI	52	Jay Wilson	1985
Walks	39	Dave Funk	1977
Stolen Bases	42	Mike Shockley	1990

Season Records—Pitching

Wins	12	Brian Brushe	1977
Appearances	21	Jim Whaley	1978
Most Innings	99	Brian Brushe	1977
ERA	1.50	Scott Parker	1997
	1.67	Colin Faherty	1996
Winning Pct.	.916	Bruce Lane (11-1)	1976

Career Records—Hitting

At-Bats	555	Dave Funk	1976-79
Runs	147	Dave Funk	1976-79
Hits	199	Dave Funk	1976-79
Average	.420	Bruce Matthews	1985-88
Total Bases	284	Dave Funk	1976-79
Doubles	47	Bryan Perry	1975-78
Triples	11	Jesse Plummer	1975-77
Home Runs	21	Robin Knight	1975-78
		Jeff Brubaker	1981-84
RBI	129	Robin Knight	1975-78
Walks	90	Dave Funk	1976-79
Stolen Bases	125	Chuck Hebron	1978-81

Career Records—Pitching

Wins	28	Wyatt Kerley	1976-79
Most Innings	302	Brian Brushe	1975-78
Strikeouts	322	Phil Briggs	1966-69

Sea Gull MVPs

1974	Tom Torillo
1975	Bryan Perry
1976	Robin Knight\Bruce Lane
1977	Jesse Plummer
1978	Bryan Perry
1979	Dave Funk
1980	Tom Krahling
1981	Al Stewart
1982	John Massey
1983	Dwayne Nicomdmus
1984	John Massey
1985	Jay Wilson
1986	Rob Lippy
1987	Devin Warwick
1988	Bruce Matthews
1989	Mark Perry
1990	Mike Shockley
1991	John Hershberger
1992	Brad Rickards
1993	Brian Hollamon
1994	Pat Fachet
1995	Brian McClellan
1996	Colin Faherty
1997	Chris Barulic

Quick Facts

Location	Salisbury, MD
Founded	1925
Enrollment	6,000
President	Dr. William C. Merwin
Colors	Maroon & Gold
Nickname	Sea Gulls
Web Site	www.ssu.edu
Affiliation	NCAA Division III
Conference	Capital Athletic (CAC)
Home Field	Sea Gull Field
Surface	Astroturf (infield); Grass (outfield)
Head Coach	Robb Disbennett
Alma Mater	Salisbury State '86
Record at School, Years	0-0, first season
Career Record	same
Coach's Phone	410-543-6360
Coach's E-mail	rwdisbennett@ssu.edu
Assistant Coaches	Ron Siers, Todd Lampman, Bill Ewe
1997 Record	23-15 (6-4 in CAC)
Lettermen Returning/Lost	14/12
Starters Returning/Lost	5/3 (non-pitchers)

1998 Sea Gull Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
February			
21	Shenandoah (2)	Salisbury	12:30
25	Christopher Newport	Newport News, VA	3:00
March			
1	St. Mary's *	Salisbury	1:00
4	College of New Jersey	Salisbury	3:00
7	Rutgers Camden	Salisbury	1:00
8	Gallaudet (2) *	Salisbury	12:30
10	Catholic *	Washington, MD	3:00
14	Eastern Connecticut	Salisbury	12:00
	Old Westbury	Salisbury	3:00
15	Eastern Connecticut	Salisbury	12:00
	Old Westbury	Salisbury	3:00
17	Rowan	Salisbury	3:00
19	Wilmington	Salisbury	3:00
21	Mary Washington (2) *	Fredericksburg, VA	1:00
22	Hampden-Sydney	Farmville, VA	1:00
23	Guilford	Greensboro, NC	3:00
24	Methodist	Fayetteville, NC	3:00
25	Virginia Wesleyan	Virginia Beach, VA	3:00
31	Wesley	Dover, DE	3:00
April			
1	Catholic *	Salisbury	3:00
2	Chowan	Salisbury	3:00
4	York *	Salisbury	1:00
5	Frostburg State (2)	Frostburg, MD	12:00
7	Christopher Newport	Salisbury	3:00
8	St. Mary's *	St. Mary's City, MD	3:00
11	Wilmington	New Castle, DE	1:00
14	York *	York, PA	3:30
17	Wesley	Salisbury	3:00
19	Allentown (2)	Allentown, PA	1:00
21	Rutgers Camden	Camden, NJ	3:30
23-26	CAC Tournament	TBA	TBA
28	Virginia Wesleyan	Salisbury	3:00
May			
1-2	SSU's Deane Deshon Classic (NC Wesleyan, SUNY-Binghamton, Wilmington)	Salisbury	TBA

* Capital Athletic Conference games

Cover Photo: The seven senior members of the 1998 squad. Back row (l-r) Cable Miller, Dave Westervelt, Tom Rey, Chris Vaccaro, Jeff Purgason. Front row, Chris Lloyd (left) and Jeff Wilson.

SSU's Athletics Philosophy

Salisbury State University, a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division III, offers 19 intercollegiate sports for men and women. In addition to NCAA membership, SSU competes as a member of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

As a member of the NCAA's Division III, Salisbury State places the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience. In doing so, it seeks to strengthen the integration of objectives and programs in athletics with academic and developmental objectives, and to assure the integration of athletes with other students.

SSU places special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants, with emphasis on the internal constituency (students, alumni and special friends) rather than on the general public and its entertainment needs.

The SSU athletics program is further characterized by the following principles:

- Participants receive the same treatment as other students. They have no unique privileges in admission, academic advising, course selection, grading, living accommodations or financial aid. Similarly, athletes are not denied rights and opportunities that would be available to them as non-athletes.
- Sports for men and women are given equal emphasis and the desired quality of competition is similar in all sports.
- Students are supported in their efforts to reach high levels of performance by providing them with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities with students from similar institutions.
- SSU strives to make the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics an enriching experience, and holds genuine concern for each participant's welfare. The intercollegiate program's foremost goal at all times is to supplement and enrich the first priority of the University, which is academic accomplishment.

Salisbury
STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
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Salisbury, MD 21801-6860